

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-11 and 13-16 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 13 are the independent claims. Claim 14 is amended. Claims 8 and 12 were previously cancelled. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §1.133(b)

In response to the telephonic interview conducted November 3, 2009, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the interview. During the interview, distinctions between the prior art references and independent claim 14 were discussed, and proposed claim amendments were presented to the Examiner. During the interview, the Examiner agreed that the proposed claim amendments overcome the rejections of record. Applicant therefore includes in this Response the proposed claim amendments which the Examiner agreed overcomes the rejections of record.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 - *Fukunaga* in view of *Wermine*

Claims 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,603,314 ("*Fukunaga*") in view of U.S. Patent 1,763,114 ("*Wermine*"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

During the November 3, 2009 Examiner interview, proposed claim amendments of independent claim 14 were presented to the Examiner, and the Examiner agreed that the proposed claim amendments overcome the rejections of record. Therefore, Applicant has included the proposed claim amendments of claim 14 in this Response.

For at least the reasons stated above related to independent claim 14, Applicant asserts that this claim is patentable. Due at least to the dependence of claims 15-16 on claim 14, Applicant also asserts that these claims are patentable. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this art ground of rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 1-7, 9-11 and 13 contain allowable subject matter. Applicant further believes that claims 14-16 are also allowable for at least the reasons stated above.

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CONCLUSION

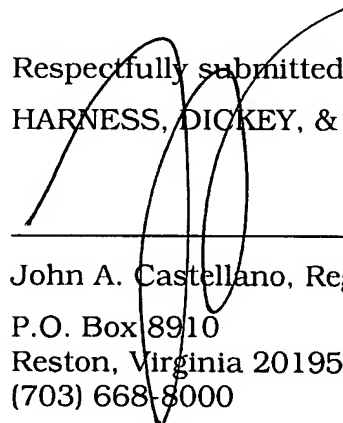
In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
HARNES, DICKY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



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